

Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
LA Metro Full Funding Grant Agreement Press Conference Remarks

May 21, 2014

Today is a great day for the City of Los Angeles, and a great day for the Westside. I couldn't be happier to join my colleagues here in Congress as well as Secretary Foxx, Mayor Garcetti, Supervisor Yaroslavsky, Metro Board Chair DuBois, Metro CEO Art Leahy and others to celebrate the announcement of the full funding grant agreement for the Purple Line. This federal money will help turn the Westside subway from a plan into reality.

The subway will fundamentally change how the people of LA get around. The Purple line will be an efficient and convenient alternative to driving—reducing congestion, reducing pollution and improving quality of life for Angelinos who can travel by rail instead of our congested roadways.

It will provide a direct route to some of the great sites in the Westside. After section one is finished, you'll be able to hop on the subway Downtown and visit the La Brea Tar Pits, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Petersen Auto Museum and Restaurant Row. When the full project is completed, you'll be able to travel from UCLA to Union Station in just 25 minutes.

And the Purple Line will be a boon for workers in LA, who will benefit from the thousands of good jobs created by project construction and the development that will no doubt occur around the many new stations.

I want to especially thank Metro CEO Art Leahy and LA Metro staff for the many years of work that have gotten the project to this point. Your tireless efforts and years of planning have brought the project to where it is today. Thank you for all your work on behalf of the people of Los Angeles.